

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Notice of Allowance, dated March 29, 2004. The Specification and claims 7, 9 and 10 have been amended. The application now includes claims 1 through 23, with claims 1, 4, 16, 18 and 20 being independent claims. Acceptance of the above proposed amendments is respectfully requested.

In the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner stated that corrected drawings including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing review be submitted. Accordingly, enclosed are four (4) replacement drawing sheets that include formal drawings.

Applicants also have proposed amending the Specification to add an inadvertently omitted word to a paragraph on page 7.

Applicants have proposed amending claim 7 to depend from claim 5 and recite that the output switch includes a P-channel field effect transistor that is changed from a non-conducting state to a conducting state when current is flowing through the optoisolator dual transistors. Originally, claim 7 was dependent upon claim 6 and recited that the PNP electronic switching device recited in claim 6 is a P-channel field effect transistor. However, a PNP device is a bipolar device while a P-channel field effect transistor is a unipolar device. Therefore, the limitation recited in the original claim 7 is inconsistent with the limitation recited in intermediate claim 6. Applicants' proposed amendment to claim 7 removes this inconsistency while retaining all of the limitations of claim 6 and original claim 7. Accordingly, applicants believe that proposed amended claim 7 introduces no new matter. Because proposed amended claim 7 is dependent upon allowed independent claim 4 and introduces no new matter, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner accept proposed amended claim 7.

Similarly, applicants also have proposed amending claim 9 to depend from claim 5 and recite that the output switch includes a N-channel field effect transistor that is changed from a non-conducting state to a conducting state when current is flowing through the optoisolator dual transistors. Originally, claim 9 was dependent

upon claim 8 and recited that the NPN electronic switching device recited in claim 8 is a N-channel field effect transistor. However, a NPN device is a bipolar device while a N-channel field effect transistor is a unipolar device. Therefore, the limitation recited in the original claim 9 is inconsistent with the limitation recited in intermediate claim 8. Applicants' proposed amendment to claim 9 removes this inconsistency while retaining all of the limitations of claim 8 and original claim 9. Accordingly, applicants believe that proposed amended claim 9 introduces no new matter. Because proposed amended claim 9 is dependent upon allowed independent claim 4 and introduces no new matter, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner accept proposed amended claim 9.

Applicants have also proposed amending claim 10 to change the recitation of a "NPN field effect transistor" to a --N-channel field effect transistor--. Claim 10 is dependent upon claim 9 and the proposed change to claim 10 would place the language in claim 10 in agreement with the antecedent language of claim 9 where it is recited that the "NPN switching device is a N-channel field effect transistor". Applicants believe that neither of the proposed amendments introduces any new matter and respectfully request that the Examiner accept the amendments.

In the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner stated that claims 1 through 23 were allowed. In view of the amendments and above remarks, and upon payment of the Issue Fee, it is believed that the application is in condition for issue.